

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 18 are in the case. New Claims 19 and 20 are being introduced. New Claims 19 and 20 are based on the Specification and the drawings.

The Office Action of December 13, 2002 states that the specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. It is unclear how the invention operates. Applicant describes directions of lift with respect to a denture or implant, however, it is not clearly shown how these elements relate. The operation of element 15 is unclear, for example, how is the stop released.

Applicant respectfully introduces new Claims 19 and 20 to obviate the rejection.

The Office Action continues that the drawings filed March 22, 2001 are objected to by the examiner because the letter designations located

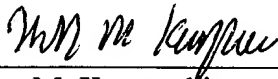
within darkened cross-hatching are unclear. The drawings do not clearly show the invention, a figures or figures showing a denture and/or implant and the orientation of the elements is required. No new matter may be added.

Applicant is in the process of preparation of new drawings which will comply with the above-stated requirements.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 1, page 26, has been amended as follows:

insufficient for releasing this motion, then the same is released by a pushing of the bolt B with a limit stop face 37 at a belonging limit stop 38 of the casing G upon further pressing of the pushbutton D. The locking of the locking bar R is effected by having the locking device A with a limit stop face 39 pushed against a limit stop face [14] 40 of the casing G. The connecting element is easily held in the slightly lifted position by the spring force, which spring force operates onto the inclined face 35 of the locking device A through the bolt B. The locking device A is pushed upwardly by the web extension or, respectively, web S through the basal limit stop face 36 of the locking device A during reinsertion of the denture and the locking device A releases again the locking bar R.

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

(Version with marking to show changes made)

19. (new) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising
a fixedly seated element (S) formed at a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
a locking bar (R) supported slidable perpendicular to a removal direction of the denture;
a spring (F), wherein the locking bar (R) is guidable by the force of a spring (F) as seen from the removal direction of the denture under regions of a fixedly seated element (S) formed at a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
a pushbutton (D), wherein the locking bar (R) with its parts effective for the locking is removable again out of these regions against this spring force by actuation of a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R);
a locking device (A) furnished for the locking bar (R), wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) by a spring force acting in the direction of the shift motion of the locking bar (R) or by the motion of the locking bar (R) itself such that the locking device effects slight lifting of the connection element in removal direction of the denture through limit stop faces.

20. (new) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants comprising

- a fixedly seated element (S) formed at a tooth crown or a tooth implant;
- a locking device (A) to be placed on the fixedly seated element (S) and having a first limit stop face (6) and having a second limit stop face (14);
- a spring (F) supported by the locking device in a direction substantially perpendicular to a removal direction of the denture;
- a locking bar (R) supported slidable in the direction perpendicular to the removal direction of the denture and having a third limit stop face (15), wherein the third limit stop face (15) is alternatively engageable with the first limit stop face (6) and with the second limit stop face (14) and the wherein the locking bar (R) is guidable by the force of the spring (F);
- a pushbutton (D) acting upon the lockingbar (R), wherein the third limit stop face (15) of the locking bar (R) is engaged with the second limit stop face (6) when the pushbutton is depressed, wherein the third limit stop face (15) remains engaged with the second limit stop face (14) upon release of the push button (D), and wherein the third limit stop face (15) becomes engaged with the first limit stop face (6) upon placing of the locking device (A) onto the fixedly seated element (S), and
- wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) in the direction of the third limit stop face (15) engaging the second limit stop face (14) against a force of the spring (F) such that the locking device (A) becomes slightly lifted in a removal direction of the denture.